United Nations A/HRC/36/6

General Assembly

Distr.: General
13 July 2017

Original: English

**Human Rights Council**
**Thirty-sixth session**
11-29 September 2017
Agenda item 6
**Universal periodic review**

# Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review*

# Morocco

* The annex is being circulated without formal editing, in the language of submission only.

GE.17-11780(E)

Please recycle

## Introduction

1. The Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, established in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, held its twenty-seventh session from 1 to 12 May 2017. The review of Morocco was held at the 4th meeting, on 2 May 2017. The delegation of Morocco was headed by the Minister for Human Rights, Mostafa Ramid. At its 10th meeting, held on 5 May 2017, the Working Group adopted the report on Morocco.

2. On 13 February 2017, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of Morocco: Congo, Panama and United Arab Emirates.

3. In accordance with paragraph 15 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 and paragraph 5 of the annex to Council resolution 16/21, the following documents were issued for the review of Morocco:

(a) A national report submitted/written presentation made in accordance with paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/27/MAR/1);

(b) A compilation prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) (A/HRC/WG.6/27/MAR/2);

(c) A summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/27/MAR/3).

4. A list of questions prepared in advance by Belgium, Germany, Liechtenstein, Mexico, the Netherlands, Norway, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland was transmitted to Morocco through the troika. These questions are available on the extranet of the universal periodic review.

# I. Summary of the proceedings of the review process

## A. Presentation by the State under review

5. The delegation of Morocco, headed by the Minister for Human Rights, emphasized the importance that Morocco had paid to following up on the recommendations received during the second cycle of the universal periodic review and emphasized the action plan adopted to implement the recommendations received by Morocco from the various international human rights mechanisms.

6. The delegation highlighted that several special procedure mandate holders had visited Morocco during the period covered by the national report. In addition, Morocco had invited a number of other relevant mandate holders to come to its territory.

7. The First Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women had been approved by the parliament and the relevant documents of ratification had been deposited with the Secretary-General.

8. The delegation stated that, following a national dialogue on a comprehensive reform of the judicial system conducted with the participation of all stakeholders, a charter on justice reform had been adopted. It included several strategic objectives aimed, in particular, at consolidating the efficiency and the independence of the judiciary.

9. The justice reform process had culminated in the appointment of the members of the Supreme Council of the Judiciary, an independent entity. Concomitantly, the Constitutional Council had been elevated to the rank of Constitutional Court and procedures for access to constitutional justice had been reviewed by simplifying referral procedures and through the exception of unconstitutionality of laws procedures. Morocco had prioritized the preparation and adoption of organic laws and other pieces of legislation establishing

constitutional bodies to protect and strengthen human rights, as well as to promote good governance and participatory democracy.

10. The legislative and institutional reforms in the area of civil and political rights had led to the adoption of the code on the press and publishing, the framework law on persons with disabilities, the law against trafficking in human beings and the law establishing the Advisory Council on Family and Childhood. Furthermore, draft laws on combating violence against women, the Criminal Code, the Code of Criminal Procedure and the Code of Civil Procedure had also been drafted.

11. On the basis of the conclusions of the national dialogue launched by the Government under the theme "civil society and its new constitutional roles", a web portal had been created to consolidate good governance and transparency and to strengthen equal access by civil society organizations to information on the possibilities of public funding.

12. The number of declared associations had reached 130,000 in 2015, covering social categories of persons from different regions of the country, and around 4,000 activities were organized by associations each day.

13. In the area of migrants' rights, Morocco had adopted a new policy on immigration and asylum that focused in particular on regularizing the situation of migrants in an irregular situation and asylum seekers. The policy had resulted in a readjustment of the legal framework relating to immigration and asylum, as well as the elaboration and implementation of strategies for the integration of migrants and refugees.

14. The first phase of efforts to regularize the situation of migrants had been launched in 2014 as an innovative initiative in the southern Mediterranean and had resulted in the regularization of the situation of 23,097 migrants.

15. The second phase of the exceptional regularization process had been launched in December 2016. The Moroccan authorities had thus been able to grant refugee status to 734 asylum seekers of different nationalities. In addition, 25 associations of migrants had been recognized, which had facilitated their access to financial support for the promotion and protection of their rights.

16. Morocco had developed public policies relating to the rights of special categories of the population. Particular attention had been paid to strengthening women's rights and equality through the adoption of the law establishing the Authority for Gender Equality and Action against All Forms of Discrimination. The reforms had contributed to improving women's political participation and to strengthening women's representation in communal, regional and legislative elections. The representation of women in the House of Representatives had grown from 67 in 2011 to 81 in 2016.

17. Morocco had extended the scope of its National Initiative for Human Development by implementing five programmes aimed at combating poverty, vulnerability and social exclusion. Since the National Initiative had been launched, 44,000 projects had been carried out, benefiting 10 million persons. Efforts had been reinforced by a new initiative for the development of the southern provinces, with a budget of DH 77 billion.

18. As part of its legislative and institutional reforms, the Government of Morocco had promoted the Interministerial Delegation on Human Rights to the rank of Ministry of State. The purpose of that decision was to strengthen coordination at the ministerial level and give particular attention and priority to human rights. Morocco had also adopted an integrated human rights policy promoting a participatory strategic vision and a national action plan on democracy and human rights.

19. Collaboration had been strengthened with the National Human Rights Council and its regional commissions, particularly with regard to the receipt of complaints and grievances. A bill had been drafted to confer to the National Council the prerogatives of the national mechanism for the prevention of torture, the national mechanism on reparations for children who have been victims of violations and the national mechanisms charged with following up on the implementation of conventions to which Morocco was a party.

20. According to the delegation, freedom of association was a fundamental freedom, guaranteed by the Constitution of 2011. The law governing freedom of association,

however, contained provisions limiting the exercise of that right, although restrictions in terms of yearly financial support could only be decided through the justice system, and appeals before the judiciary were possible. The emergence of a network of associations had been facilitated and a significant increase in the number of associations and in their diversity, as well as an increase in community action at the national level, had been noted.

21. More than 130,000 associations operated in Morocco, in the different areas of public life (economic, social and cultural). Over 4,500 associations worked on human rights.

22. Peaceful gatherings and demonstrations were guaranteed by the Constitution and the law. The exercise of freedom of assembly and association was regulated by the law governing public gatherings.

23. Freedom of assembly and association could be restricted only in case of non-compliance with the relevant legal provisions or of breaches of public order. The relevant decisions of the administrative authorities could only be appealed before the judiciary.

24. The right to peaceful assembly had been exercised in quantitatively and qualitatively different ways throughout the country. More than 11,752 events had been organized in 2016, equal to an average of 32 events per day involving some 824,085 demonstrators.

25. Many public rallies and demonstrations had been held in the southern provinces. In 2016, for example, more than 755 events involving over 16,162 protesters had been organized.

26. Regarding efforts to promote women's rights, the delegation indicated that Law No. 113 had been adopted by the parliament to combat violence against women. The law included a definition of violence and criminalized all acts that constituted violence against women. In addition, 144 centres had been created to provide legal, psychological and physical aid to women victims of violence.

27. The delegation pointed out that a law on human trafficking had also been adopted in 2016, based on four pillars: prevention, protection, continuity in the fight against trafficking networks and partnership with civil society. Measures to protect victims and witnesses had also been envisaged.

28. Regarding the right to work, the delegation highlighted that 51,000 jobs had been created between 2010 and 2015 and the unemployment rate had decreased, reaching 8.6 per cent in 2016. Moreover, programmes focused on incorporating youths into the labour market had been carried out, resulting in more than 100,000 posts for young people in the private sector. Furthermore, Morocco was implementing the "green programme", which aimed to achieve an increase in people working in the agricultural sector by 16 per cent.

29. Concerning the right to health, the delegation indicated that actions were being taken to improve the medical system and that progress had been made to decrease the maternal mortality rate, which had fallen by 66 per cent over the past 20 years. The delegation emphasized the progress made in terms of education-related indicators between 2016 and 2017 in respect of primary and secondary education. In addition, a positive trend had been noted regarding the education of girls in rural areas.

30. The delegation indicated that the number of people living in slums had dropped considerably.

31. The delegation stated the following:

> The Kingdom of Morocco has made efforts to improve the enjoyment of human rights in the Moroccan Sahara, in particular the new model for the development of the Southern Provinces, the advanced regionalization and the efficient role played by the national institutions, in particular the National Human Rights Council through its regional commissions in Laayoune and Dakhla, as well as the major and sustained efforts undertaken by Morocco for the development, the protection and the promotion of the Saharo hassani heritage which is enshrined in the 2011 Constitution as one of the components of the Moroccan identity. … Pending a final and consensual political solution among all parties to the territorial dispute over the Moroccan Sahara, the Kingdom of Morocco continues its efforts, in a participatory

and integrated approach, to promote rights and freedoms in the Moroccan Sahara as there is no distinction in the Kingdom between the Sahara region and the other regions.

The delegation affirmed that all Moroccan citizens were equal before the law in terms of rights and responsibilities, as was the case in all democratic States. It ascertained that the people of the Sahara were an integral component of the defence of the territorial integrity and national unity and were associated in all development processes at the national, regional and local levels, either through elected representative bodies, professional bodies and civil society organizations that worked freely within the legal and constitutional framework of the country.

32. The delegation added that "efforts are being deployed to promote the Amazigh culture, which is enshrined in the Constitution" and that, "in 2016, 600 development projects were being implemented in the Moroccan Sahara".

33. The delegation stated that "the autonomy proposal made by the Kingdom of Morocco constitutes a historic opportunity for reunification and a real framework for development, protection and enjoyment of human rights, as well as a compromise final solution which would enable the inhabitants of the Moroccan Sahara to manage their local affairs within the sovereignty and the territorial integrity of the Kingdom of Morocco".

34. The delegation highlighted that, over the previous two decades, Morocco had become a major actor at the regional and international levels in the field of human rights, hosting important international events such as the second session of the World Forum on Human Rights, held in Marrakech in November 2014, and the twenty-second session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

35. Likewise, an international forum on the role of religious leaders in preventing incitement to commit crimes of atrocity had been held in Fez in 2015, after which a draft plan of action had been drawn up to prevent incitement to such crimes. The draft plan of action was inspired by the Rabat Plan of Action on the prohibition of advocacy of national, racial or religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence, adopted on 5 October 2012.

36. Morocco was co-chairing, with Germany, the Global Forum on Migration and Development during 2017 and 2018.

37. The delegation thanked the members of the Human Rights Council, in particular those who made statements.

## B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review

38. During the interactive dialogue, 25 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue are to be found in section II of the present report.

39. Uruguay congratulated Morocco for its ratification of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and the inclusion of its provisions in the Criminal Code.

40. Viet Nam praised the political, normative and institutional reforms made by Morocco, and the public policies for promoting and protecting economic, social and cultural rights.

41. Yemen commended Morocco for ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and for reforming the judicial system.

42. Zambia commended Morocco for facilitating the visit of four special procedure mandate holders, submitting five national reports for consideration by the treaty bodies and acceding to international human rights treaties.

43. While noting the significant strides made in numerous areas, Zimbabwe was disheartened by the lack of reference in the national report to the reportedly undesirable human rights and humanitarian situation in Western Sahara.

44. Qatar commended Morocco for its cooperation with the Human Rights Council mechanisms and welcomed the recent adoption of several pieces of legislation establishing constitutional institutions to promote and protect human rights.

45. Angola noted with satisfaction the reforms undertaken by Morocco aimed at ensuring that the judiciary would be in line with international standards.

46. Argentina noted the discrimination suffered by lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons in Morocco. It welcomed the adoption of a law aimed at combating trafficking.

47. Armenia encouraged Morocco to continue and further enhance activities directed towards eliminating discrimination against women, in law and in practice.

48. Australia welcomed the ongoing work of Morocco to strengthen human rights, including by providing training in observing elections, combating discrimination and investigating and preventing torture.

49. Austria congratulated Morocco on efforts to protect women's rights, its accession to the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and its recognition of the rights of the Amazigh people.

50. Azerbaijan highlighted the adoption of the national sustainable development strategy for 2015-2020, which included several priority areas, including the environment.

51. Bahrain commended the tangible achievements in implementing the recommendations arising from the second cycle of the universal periodic review and appreciated the structural reforms made to develop the southern provinces.

52. Bangladesh commended Morocco for its keenness to mainstream human rights perspectives into public policies and, especially, in the national sustainable development strategy for 2015-2020.

53. Belgium encouraged Morocco to continue its efforts to implement the recommendations accepted during the previous review, in particular those relating to women's rights.

54. Botswana welcomed the development of a national strategy and operational plan for the elimination of violence against women.

55. Brazil congratulated Morocco for its efforts to strengthen the participation of women in politics and requested more information about measures taken to raise the public's awareness of new human rights legislation.

56. Brunei Darussalam welcomed the measures taken by Morocco to improve the social protection system and commended it for its achievements in combating poverty.

57. Burkina Faso commended Morocco for taking various measures to counter violence against women, children, persons with disabilities and migrants, and urged it to continue its efforts on human rights education.

58. Burundi congratulated Morocco for the numerous measures adopted since its previous review to improve the human rights situation, including in the justice sector.

59. Canada appreciated the amendment to article 475 of the Criminal Code ending the practice of allowing those who raped minors to escape imprisonment by marrying their victims.

60. The Central African Republic expressed support for actions to improve the human rights situation in the country and to rigorously address violations and abuses.

61. Chad welcomed several of the human rights achievements of Morocco, notably the organization of the second session of the World Forum on Human Rights in 2014 and the adoption of the law against human trafficking.

62. Chile congratulated Morocco for ratifying the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture.

63. China welcomed the charter on the reform of the judicial system, the national sustainable development strategy for 2015-2020 and the plan for gender equality for 2012-2016.

64. Colombia welcomed the incorporation of women's rights into public policies and the integrated public policy for the protection of children and persons with disabilities, as well as the withdrawal of the reservations to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

65. The Congo praised the new immigration and asylum policy and encouraged Morocco to continue its cooperation with human rights mechanisms.

66. Côte d'Ivoire commended Morocco for its efforts to accede to international human rights instruments, for inviting special procedure mandate holders and for bringing its legal framework into compliance with international law.

67. Croatia encouraged Morocco to develop a more advanced legal framework on child marriage and the use of corporal punishment against children and to harmonize it with international standards.

68. Cuba welcomed measures to promote, protect and follow up on the implementation of the rights of the child, as well as the adoption of a holistic public policy to promote the rights of persons with disabilities.

69. Cyprus commended Morocco for its policies and programmes to reduce poverty and ensure the right to food. It also praised the efforts to promote and protect the country's cultural heritage.

70. Denmark noted as positive the passing of the new press code in 2016 but remained concerned about the possible use of the Criminal Code's provisions to imprison journalists and restrict freedoms.

71. Djibouti appreciated the efforts made by Morocco to promote economic and social rights, in particular with a view to reducing social inequality and poverty. It welcomed the education strategy for 2015-2030.

72. Ecuador thanked Morocco for its justice reform, the public policies aimed at protecting migrants and its initiatives to tackle climate change.

73. Egypt commended Morocco for the efforts made in the area of judicial reform and the establishment of the Authority for Gender Equality and Action against All Forms of Discrimination.

74. Estonia called for stepping up efforts to designate a national preventive mechanism under the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture.

75. Ethiopia noted with satisfaction the plan for gender equality and the 2015-2020 national sustainable development strategy to promote and protect human rights.

76. France welcomed the progress made concerning the regularization of migrants since 2014. However, it noted that legal inequalities between men and women remained.

77. Gabon took note of the significant achievements made by Morocco since the previous review in the area of promotion and protection of human rights.

78. Georgia encouraged the submission of a midterm report, as had been done in 2014, and the effective implementation of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture.

79. Germany regretted that Morocco had not passed legislation penalizing domestic violence, in line with a recommendation accepted by Morocco during the second cycle of the universal periodic review.

80. Ghana noted with appreciation the accession by Morocco to some core human rights treaties since its second-cycle review.

81. Greece congratulated Morocco for its efforts to strengthen the institutional and legal framework for the promotion and protection of human rights.

82. Guatemala noted with appreciation the adoption of the national policy on migration and asylum seekers in Morocco, as well as its implementation strategy.

83. Haiti noted with satisfaction the successful economic reforms and the progress made concerning freedom of expression and the protection of the rights of migrant workers.

84. Honduras recognized the actions of Morocco in favour of vulnerable groups, the national action plan for persons with disabilities and the recognition of the Amazigh language.

85. Hungary commended Morocco for implementing the plan for gender equality 2012-2016 but was concerned about the discrimination faced by Christians and other religious minorities.

86. Iceland was concerned about reports of discrimination against members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex community. It urged Morocco to improve the human rights situation in Western Sahara.

87. Indonesia commended Morocco, as a fellow core member of the Convention against Torture Initiative, for its efforts to improve legislation on human rights.

88. The Islamic Republic of Iran commended Morocco for strengthening its social policies to protect the human rights of vulnerable groups, including women, children and persons with disabilities.

89. Iraq commended Morocco for the creation of the Ministry of Human Rights and the Interministerial Human Rights Unit and the adoption of the national sustainable development strategy for 2015-2020.

90. Ireland welcomed the steps taken towards gender equality and urged Morocco to withdraw its reservations to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

91. Italy congratulated Morocco for the progress achieved in the judicial system and for actions taken to promote the work of mechanisms combating torture.

92. Jordan commended the measures taken to enhance gender equality and the efforts to promote less developed regions and reduce poverty. It also welcomed the national plan for children.

93. Kenya welcomed the participation of Morocco in the universal periodic review and thanked it for its national report.

94. Kuwait commended the positive measures taken by Morocco to raise public awareness of human rights and its commitment to the protection of human rights.

95. The Lao People's Democratic Republic commended the measures taken by Morocco to improve social protection by extending social and medical coverage to the whole population.

96. Latvia commended the adoption of the 2016 press code. It noted that the recommendation to ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court had previously been accepted but not implemented.

97. Lebanon commended Morocco for its efforts to respect its obligations by enacting legislation promoting freedom of opinion and expression, protecting the rights of journalists and combating human trafficking.

98. Libya commended Morocco for making achievements since the previous universal periodic review and for adopting national strategies for sustainable development and youth.

99. Madagascar commended Morocco for the establishment of an independent judicial system and the adoption of policies aimed at protecting the rights of vulnerable groups.

100. The Maldives was encouraged by the efforts made by Morocco to protect the rights of persons with disabilities through the implementation of a national action plan for their social integration.

101. Mauritania commended Morocco for adopting a dynamic and participatory approach to the preparation of its national reports and for the legislative reforms taken.

102. Mauritius welcomed the strategic vision for educational reform for 2015-2030, which focused on fairness, on equality and on the promotion of the individual and society.

103. Mexico congratulated Morocco for its cooperation with OHCHR and noted that the visit of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities was pending.

104. Montenegro encouraged Morocco to further reinforce the child protection policy and intensify its efforts in combating violence against children in all its forms and in all settings.

105. Mozambique welcomed the visits of special procedure mandate holders and the submission of reports to treaty bodies.

106. Myanmar commended Morocco for its achievements in advancing human rights and shared the concerns expressed regarding the high number of early marriages.

107. Namibia congratulated Morocco for ratifying several human rights treaties, including the First Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

108. The Netherlands noted that positive steps had been taken, as a result of the adoption of the 2011 Constitution. It welcomed specifically the legislative amendment regarding the perpetrators of sexual violence against minors.

109. The Niger commended Morocco for its efforts to enable the national human rights institution to be granted A status and for the reforms to the justice system.

110. Norway commended Morocco for amending article 475 of the Criminal Code and for having started the process of adopting the law on violence against women.

111. Oman commended Morocco for its cooperation with the human rights mechanisms and applauded its efforts to adopt a national strategy for sustainable development after consultations with stakeholders.

112. Pakistan commended the public policies related to human rights, particularly for vulnerable groups such as children, migrants, asylum seekers and persons with disabilities.

113. Paraguay welcomed the reforms made by Morocco to guarantee the adequate functioning of the judiciary, to promote gender equality and implement policies to safeguard the environment.

114. Peru welcomed the efforts made to strengthen citizen participation, improvements in the social protection system and progress in the recognition of Amazigh culture and language.

115. The Philippines welcomed the steps taken to regularize the situation of thousands of migrants. It commended the enactment of the trafficking in persons law.

116. Portugal noted that Morocco had attentively followed the problem of out-of-school youths and dropouts, as well as the difficulties in accessing education faced by the most vulnerable groups.

117. Albania noted the progress made by Morocco in the domestic legal framework and the establishment and consolidation of institutions provided for under the Constitution.

118. The Republic of Korea noted that increased monitoring and cross-cutting coordination by the National Human Rights Council would lead to better protection of human rights.

119. Romania welcomed the development of legislation establishing bodies holding constitutional status for human rights protection and promotion, good governance, sustainable human development and participatory democracy.

120. Rwanda commended Morocco for its progress in improving the social and economic status of its citizens, in reforming the justice sector and in improving access to justice.

121. Saudi Arabia commended Morocco for its efforts to integrate human rights in public policies and to promote the right to education in the context of the strategic vision for reform for 2015-2030.

122. Senegal welcomed the adoption of an inclusive social policy targeting vulnerable persons and thus contributing to a reduction in inequality and poverty, particularly in the southern provinces.

123. Serbia encouraged Morocco to continue its policy of promoting gender equality, in particular in the job market.

124. Sierra Leone commended Morocco for adopting the 2016 trafficking in persons act, the efforts made to regularize the situation of migrants and grant asylum, the gender equality plan and the child protection programme.

125. Singapore commended Morocco for its implementation of the National Initiative for Human Development and the establishment of a social cohesion fund for persons with specific needs.

126. Slovenia acknowledged the improvements made in terms of gender equality, including the creation of the Authority for Gender Equality and Action against All Forms of Discrimination, and noted that significant challenges remained.

127. South Africa said that it trusted that a political process with the Polisario Front would be resumed with the aim of reaching a mutually acceptable political solution and that it remained confident that a referendum would be held on the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara.

128. South Sudan noted the wide-ranging reforms made to the justice sector, the efforts to strengthen women's participation in public life and the adoption of policies aimed at combating poverty and social inequality.

129. Spain welcomed the adoption of the new Constitution, which accorded human rights a prominent place and extended public freedoms.

130. Sri Lanka requested that Morocco share challenges and specific steps taken in the process of adopting the draft law for the elimination of violence against women.

131. The State of Palestine commended Morocco for its efforts to alleviate poverty through social and economic reforms and noted the improvements in education, including regarding the indicators of children enrolled in education.

132. The Sudan commended Morocco for the steps taken since its second review, such as the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture.

133. Sweden made recommendations.

134. Switzerland welcomed the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and said it would support efforts to establish a national mechanism for the prevention of torture. Switzerland regretted that Morocco had not yet adopted the law on violence against women.

135. Thailand welcomed the efforts made to guarantee the right to health by establishing mobile hospitals in rural areas. It remained concerned about violence against women.

136. Togo noted the 2013 immigration and asylum policy allowing the reception and regularization of the situation of migrants. It welcomed the remarkable work of the national human rights institution.

137. Tunisia commended Morocco for its efforts to alleviate poverty and combat child labour, and welcomed the adoption of the press law of 2016 and the law on military courts' jurisdiction.

138. Turkey welcomed the reforms to the justice system, the equality plan, the policy on child protection and the legislative reform improving women's political participation.

139. Uganda commended Morocco for its active engagement in the universal periodic review and with the treaty bodies, including the progress made on the national reform agenda for strengthening human rights accountability.

140. Ukraine encouraged Morocco to ensure that the child protection policy covered all areas under the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

141. The United Arab Emirates commended Morocco for its adoption of the national strategy on sustainable development for 2015-2020 and the establishment of several programmes and funds relevant to environmental protection.

142. The United Kingdom welcomed the reforms aimed at increasing the separation of powers and, in particular, at ending the trial of civilians in military courts. It urged the implementation of reforms guaranteeing access to information and protecting journalistic sources.

143. The United States of America expressed concern at the mechanisms to investigate abuse and corruption, including in the security forces, and at the limitations imposed on the full exercise of the freedoms of expression and association.

## II. Conclusions and/or recommendations

144. **The following recommendations will be examined by Morocco, which will provide responses in due time, but no later than the thirty-sixth session of the Human Rights Council:**

144.1 **Ratify the First Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Australia) (Georgia) (Spain); accede to the First Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Portugal);**

144.2 **Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Belgium) (Estonia) (Hungary); accede to the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Portugal) (Togo);**

144.3 **Move towards the ratification of the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Chile);**

144.4 **Consider ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Norway);**

144.5 **Formally abolish the death penalty and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Australia);**

144.6 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Portugal);**

144.7 **Sign and ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Italy);**

144.8 **Consider withdrawing the remaining declarations and reservations to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Rwanda);**

144.9 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure (Croatia) (Montenegro);**

144.10 **Accelerate the process for the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure (Georgia);**

144.11 **Ratify the Convention on the Non-Applicability of Statutory Limitations to War Crimes and Crimes against Humanity (Armenia);**

144.12 **Ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and bring national legislation into conformity with its provisions (Austria);**

144.13 **Ratify the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Estonia);**

144.14 **Ratify and fully align its national legislation with the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, as previously recommended (Latvia);**

144.15 **Consider ratifying the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and fully align its legislation with all obligations under the Rome Statute (Norway);**

144.16 **Ratify the Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189), of the International Labour Organization (Philippines);**

144.17 **Adopt an open, merit-based selection process when selecting national candidates for United Nations treaty body elections (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**

144.18 **Take the necessary steps to achieve the total abolition of the death penalty (Brazil);**

144.19 **Consider issuing a standing invitation to the special procedure mandate holders (Austria);**

144.20 **Continue interacting constructively with the special procedure mechanisms of the Human Rights Council (Côte d'Ivoire);**

144.21 **Extend a standing invitation to the special procedure mandate holders of the Human Rights Council (Guatemala);**

144.22 **Issue a standing invitation to special procedures, as previously recommended (Latvia);**

144.23 **Take concrete steps to strengthen its cooperation with the special procedures of the United Nations, in particular those of the Human Rights Council (Portugal);**

144.24 **Accept the establishment of a permanent rights component in the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara, given the continuing need for independent and impartial monitoring of the human rights situation in the place, as previously recommended (Uruguay);**

144.25 **Undertake to fully cooperate with the United Nations and, in particular, the special envoy of the Secretary-General for Western Sahara (Zimbabwe);**

144.26 **Comply with the provisions of Security Council resolution 2351 (2017), which extends the mandate of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara and align itself with the principle of self-determination of the Saharawi people (Mozambique);**

144.27 **Cooperate with the newly appointed special envoy of the Secretary-General for Western Sahara (Mozambique);**

144.28 **Accept the inclusion of a human rights dimension in the mandate of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (Namibia);**

144.29 **Continue to work with OHCHR and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to re-establish the humanitarian aid programme for the Western Saharan population (Sierra Leone);**

144.30 **Fully cooperate with the Secretary-General, the African Union special envoys and OHCHR on the situation in Western Sahara (South Africa);**

144.31 **Ensure that the Criminal Code is fully in accordance with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Estonia);**

144.32 **Revise the Criminal Code and associated laws to ensure compliance with international standards, guarantee equality between men and women, criminalize marital rape, decriminalize sexual relations outside marriage, abolish discrimination against children born outside marriage, increase the minimum age of marriage to 18 years, decriminalize consensual same-sex relations and develop public awareness programmes to address the stigmatization of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons (Ireland);**

144.33 **Continue to strengthen its legislative and institutional framework for the promotion and protection of human rights (Oman);**

144.34 **Adopt and apply a comprehensive anti-discrimination law (Ukraine);**

144.35 **Take steps to bring the definition of torture in line with the requirements of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Ghana);**

144.36 **Adhere to and align national legislation with the Rome Statute, including through the incorporation of provisions to cooperate promptly and fully with the International Criminal Court (Guatemala);**

144.37 **Continue its steps to consolidate the principles of human rights and public freedoms (Yemen);**

144.38 **Continue to mainstream human rights into various national bodies and sectors (Egypt);**

144.39 **Continue to allocate the required funding for the implementation of projects to increase the integration of human rights into public policies (Ethiopia);**

144.40 **Consolidate the experience of regionalization and continue the participation of youths and women in all the regions of the Kingdom, including the southern provinces (Gabon);**

144.41 **Accelerate the implementation of the advanced regionalization, as a means to further promote the participation of citizens, especially women and youths, from the 12 regions of the Kingdom in the political and economic governance of the country (Indonesia);**

144.42 **Continue to put in place public policies and programmes on human rights, including on the effective role of parliamentarians in the promotion and protection of human rights (Philippines);**

144.43 **Strengthen the achievements in the area of consolidation of human rights (Senegal);**

144.44 **Continue reforms to consolidate the rule of law and the national mechanisms for protection of human rights (Viet Nam);**

144.45 **Step up the process of creating the Authority for Gender Equality and Action against All Forms of Discrimination (Gabon);**

144.46 **Continue efforts to support the role of regional committees of the National Human Rights Council, especially in the southern provinces (Jordan);**

144.47 **Establish the Authority for Gender Equality and Action against All Forms of Discrimination (Kuwait);**

144.48 **Establish an independent, effective and well-resourced national preventive mechanism in compliance with the requirements of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Ghana);**

144.49 **Accelerate the process of establishing the national preventive mechanism on torture (Greece);**

144.50 **Streamline the process for the establishment of the national mechanism for the prevention of torture, ensuring broad and inclusive participation in the same (Guatemala);**

144.51 **Intensify efforts to combat cases of torture and other ill-treatment by State agents, establishing an independent and effective national mechanism for the prevention of torture (Spain);**

144.52 **Ensure that a national preventive mechanism is swiftly established and that the mechanism is underpinned by a legal basis and receives the human resources and financial means necessary to carry out its mandate in an independent and efficient manner (Switzerland);**

144.53 **Establish a mechanism to protect the rights of persons with disabilities (Madagascar);**

144.54 **Establish a national mechanism for the protection of the rights of persons with disabilities (Bahrain);**

144.55 **Continue promoting the role of national institutions for the protection of human rights by supporting the activities of the regional committees of the National Human Rights Council in various regions, in particular in the cities of Laayoune and Dakhla in the southern provinces (Bahrain);**

144.56 **Support the action for the promotion and protection of human rights undertaken by the National Human Rights Council through its regional commissions throughout the territory (Central African Republic);**

144.57 **Continue efforts to establish and consolidate national institutions and mechanisms for the promotion and protection of human rights (Gabon);**

144.58 **Ensure procedures governing the registration of civil society organizations, including those advocating for the Saharawi people's right to self-determination (Iceland);**

144.59 **Strengthen the action taken by the national council for the promotion and protection of human rights, in particular through its commissions throughout the territory (Madagascar);**

144.60 **Continue to reinforce the role and capacity of the national human rights institution, which was re-accredited A status in March 2016 in full compliance with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles) (Mauritania);**

144.61 **Ensure that the procedures governing the registration of civil society organizations, including organizations advocating for the Saharawi people's right to self-determination, are in conformity with international standards (Norway);**

144.62 **Continue the efforts of the Government to endow the national human rights institution with sufficient budgetary resources (Togo);**

144.63 **Make further efforts to promote the culture of human rights and human rights education (Lebanon);**

144.64 **Continue the positive experience of organizing human rights capacity-building programmes for law enforcement agencies (Azerbaijan);**

144.65 **Continue to train public officials on human rights (Lebanon);**

144.66 **Promote human rights education and training of public servants, along with the provision of necessary resources, at all levels. Local government employees, who have the most direct effect on its people, most often lack training in human rights or the resources to meet international standards on human rights (Republic of Korea);**

144.67 Ensure that adequate human and financial resources are allocated for the implementation of programmes and activities on human rights (Philippines);

144.68 Enable the people of Western Sahara to exercise their right to self-determination through a democratic referendum (Zimbabwe);

144.69 Continue efforts to draw up a national framework for human development that takes into consideration gender equality and non-discrimination (Tunisia);

144.70 Decriminalize consensual homosexual relations and release those who have been detained for that reason (Uruguay);

144.71 Repeal article 490 of the Criminal Code criminalizing sexual relationships outside marriage in order to eliminate risks associated with abandonment and institutional stigmatization of children born out of wedlock (Belgium);

144.72 Prohibit discrimination and criminalize violence against persons on the basis of their sexual orientation or gender identity (Canada);

144.73 Put an end to forms of discrimination (including legal ones) faced by lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons (France);

144.74 Decriminalize consensual relations between same-sex adults (Mexico);

144.75 Ensure the same rights to all citizens, including those of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex collective, decriminalizing same-sex relationships and eliminating all discriminatory legislation on the basis of sexual orientation (Spain);

144.76 Apply and adopt a comprehensive anti-discrimination law containing a general prohibition of all forms of direct and indirect discrimination (Hungary);

144.77 Decriminalize consensual sexual relations, including by repealing the provisions in articles 489 to 493 of the Criminal Code prohibiting same-sex sexual relations, sexual relations outside marriage and adultery (Netherlands);

144.78 Adopt a comprehensive anti-discrimination law (South Africa);

144.79 Take urgent measures to repeal the norms that criminalize and stigmatize lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons and investigate and punish the perpetrators of acts of discrimination and violence against them (Argentina);

144.80 Repeal legislation, in particular article 489 of the Criminal Code, criminalizing consensual sexual conduct between same-sex adults (Iceland);

144.81 Continue efforts to achieve the national strategic goals for sustainable development (2015-2020) (Oman);

144.82 Continue to develop and implement development programmes and to improve the economic capacities of the entire country, including in the southern provinces of Morocco (Saudi Arabia);

144.83 Speed up the implementation of the national policy on climate change (Cuba);

144.84 Strengthen the mainstreaming of environmental rights within the elaboration and implementation of development strategies (Indonesia);

144.85 Revise the provisions of the Criminal Code on terrorism and define terrorism-related offences more clearly and precisely (Hungary);

144.86 Revise the provisions of the Criminal Code on terrorism with a view to defining precisely terrorism-related offences and ensure legislation is in line with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Albania);

144.87 **With reference to the recently expressed concern by the Economic and Social Council about the presence of the berm, continue to implement the demining programme along the berm and compensate victims (Namibia);**

144.88 **Continue efforts to remove landmines and other explosive remnants of war (Peru);**

144.89 **Adhere to and adapt national legislation to the Arms Trade Treaty (Guatemala);**

144.90 **Implement the recommendations from the second cycle contained in A/HRC/21/3, paras. 129.62 and 129.65, and unequivocally ban corporal punishment in all places, including at home, in alternative care institutions, in day nurseries and in schools (Haiti);**

144.91 **Establish legislation that prohibits corporal punishment and the ill-treatment of boys and girls (Paraguay);**

144.92 **Abolish the death penalty (France);**

144.93 **Intensify national discussions with a view to abolishing the death penalty (Italy);**

144.94 **Keep the moratorium on the death penalty and intensify dialogue on capital punishment and its impact, towards its full abolition for all crimes (Montenegro);**

144.95 **Continue the current national debate on the abolition of the death penalty and consider formalizing the de facto moratorium currently observed (Albania);**

144.96 **Maintain its de facto moratorium on the use of the death penalty with a view towards its total abolition, including through the ongoing process of reform of the Criminal Code (Rwanda);**

144.97 **Continue the national debate on the abolition of the death penalty (South Africa);**

144.98 **Consider formalizing the de facto moratorium on the death penalty (Ukraine);**

144.99 **Consider abolishing capital punishment (Namibia);**

144.100 **Eliminate the death penalty from its national legislation (Paraguay);**

144.101 **Maintain the moratorium on the death penalty, followed by the definitive abolition of the death penalty (Austria);**

144.102 **Continue the socioeconomic programmes for detainees in relation to their post-detention socio-professional reinsertion, in particular in favour of women and youths (Central African Republic);**

144.103 **Accelerate the process of revising the legal framework regulating prisons in order to harmonize it with international standards (Cyprus);**

144.104 **Take the necessary measures to resolve the problem of prison overcrowding (Greece);**

144.105 **Continue to improve the conditions in prisons, reduce crowding and adopt alternatives to pretrial detention and provide adequate medical care to prisoners (Kenya);**

144.106 **Accelerate the process of revising the legislative framework governing prisons with a view to harmonizing it with the 2011 Constitution and international standards (Pakistan);**

144.107 **Adopt the proposed amendments to the Code of Criminal Procedure to ensure respect for guarantees and safeguards in detention (Ghana);**

144.108 **Strengthen its national mechanisms and international cooperation to combat trafficking in persons and, particularly, child sex tourism (Honduras);**

144.109 **Continue efforts to combat human trafficking and ensure that special attention is given to vulnerable groups when applying the law adopted in this regard (Qatar);**

144.110 **Develop a national strategy to tackle modern slavery and ratify the 2014 Protocol to the Forced Labour Convention of the International Labour Organization (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**

144.111 **Remove restrictive practices against Christians and other minorities, including limitations on religious activities, freedom of thought and conscience, in accordance with international law (Kenya);**

144.112 **Ensure that the relevant provisions of the Criminal Code are brought into line with the obligations of Morocco under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, in particular with regard to freedom of speech and opinion (Zambia);**

144.113 **Refrain from referring to laws other than the press code when dealing with infractions of the freedom of expression (Denmark);**

144.114 **Fully ensure the freedoms of expression and association and take all necessary measures to ensure that human rights defenders can carry out their missions (France);**

144.115 **Continue the work to enhance freedom of expression through the implementation of the law establishing the National Press Council (Qatar);**

144.116 **Review Criminal Code provisions regarding freedom of expression, in conformity with article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Netherlands);**

144.117 **Ensure the Constitution's provisions on freedom of the press, freedom of opinion and expression and freedom of assembly and association are respected, including for people who want to express their views on the situation of and in Western Sahara (Sweden);**

144.118 **End the prosecution of journalists under the Criminal Code for peacefully exercising their right to freedom of opinion and expression and for ensuring the right to information (Sweden);**

144.119 **End the prosecution of and release journalists and other individuals detained solely for exercising their rights to freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and association (United States of America);**

144.120 **Create and maintain, in law and in practice, a safe and enabling environment for civil society and human rights defenders, including in and in relation to Western Sahara, through a revision of the Criminal Code and remove limitations on freedom of expression, review the system for registration of associations and notification of assemblies and consistent application of rules to all peaceful assemblies irrespective of their topic (Ireland);**

144.121 **Remove obstacles to non-governmental associations seeking registration from the authorities (Sweden);**

144.122 **Approve the licence applications for all non-governmental associations seeking registration in accordance with the law, including organizations advocating for members of minority populations (United States of America);**

144.123 **Conduct full, impartial and independent investigations into all allegations of corruption or abuse by security forces and prosecute those responsible where appropriate (United States of America);**

144.124 **Take further steps to ensure judicial independence, which is important in guaranteeing fair trials in accordance with international human rights standards (Australia);**

144.125 **Complete reforms of the judiciary (Kuwait);**

144.126 **Accelerate the implementation of the charter on the reform of the judicial system (Sri Lanka);**

144.127 **Continue completing the process of reforming the justice system and guarantee the independence of the judiciary in accordance with the relevant constitutional requirements (Sudan);**

144.128 **Revise the Criminal Code and the Criminal Procedure Code as part of the ongoing reform of the justice sector (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**

144.129 **Take the necessary measures to repeal all legal provisions that establish differences between children born in wedlock and children born out of wedlock, in particular those contained in the Family Code that were discriminatory against such children (Argentina);**

144.130 **Analyse existing legislation and repeal all rules, in particular those of the Family Code, which are contrary to the principle of equality between children or which constitute a discrimination of the rights of the child (Chile);**

144.131 **Repeal all discriminatory provisions in relation to children born out of wedlock (Congo);**

144.132 **Repeal the provision preventing Moroccan women from transmitting nationality to their foreign husband (Congo);**

144.133 **Repeal provisions which deny women legal guardianship of minor children on an equal footing with men (Denmark);**

144.134 **Abolish the criminalization of single mothers, allow full legal recognition of children born outside marriage (including with regard to their name and right of inheritance) and introduce DNA testing to ascertain paternity (Germany);**

144.135 **Consider eliminating from identity documents all data that could lead to discrimination against children born out of wedlock (Peru);**

144.136 **Improve the existing procedures for registering children to guarantee equality for children and equal legal treatment without any discrimination (Serbia);**

144.137 **Repeal the provisions in the Family Code which discriminate against children born outside of wedlock (Togo);**

144.138 **Withdraw any reference in identity documents which would allow for the identification of children born outside of wedlock and repeal all discriminatory provisions regarding such children, in particular in the Family Code (Turkey);**

144.139 **Eliminate fees for birth certificates and facilitate the issuance of birth certificates to all refugee children who do not have any yet (Turkey);**

144.140 **Allocate more resources for the implementation of national policies in favour of vulnerable social groups (Viet Nam);**

144.141 **Continue and speed up efforts to promote economic, social and cultural rights for the whole population (Djibouti);**

144.142 **Continue efforts to promote and protect economic and social rights through development strategies to encourage investment and employment (Saudi Arabia);**

144.143 **Improve the identification of eligible beneficiaries of social protection schemes (Islamic Republic of Iran);**

144.144 **Continue to promote the consolidation of its social policies and combat poverty and inequality, which are still present (Angola);**

144.145 **Continue efforts to protect economic and social rights through the implementation of programmes to fight poverty, in the framework of the national human development initiative (Côte d'Ivoire);**

144.146 **Continue to implement policies to fight poverty and promote economic development (Egypt);**

144.147 **Continue endeavours to reduce poverty and bridge the income gap between the different regions and between rural and urban areas (Islamic Republic of Iran);**

144.148 **Continue strengthening programmes to reduce poverty through the National Initiative for Human Development (Pakistan);**

144.149 **Share its experience with others in the field of human development and poverty reduction (South Sudan);**

144.150 **Continue to adopt measures to further improve the lives of vulnerable people in the country (Brunei Darussalam);**

144.151 **Ensure an equitable distribution of resources between rural and urban areas (State of Palestine);**

144.152 **Continue its good work to reduce the prevailing high unemployment rate in the country (Bangladesh);**

144.153 **Continue to promote economic and social development to steadily raise peoples' living standards so as to provide a firm foundation for the enjoyment of all human rights (China);**

144.154 **Strengthen the laws ensuring the reduction of unemployment rates and increase employment opportunities to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development (Iraq);**

144.155 **Continue efforts to reduce unemployment rates among youths, including by strengthening vocational training programmes (Libya);**

144.156 **Establish dialogues to engage in cooperation that will allow for the application of best practices and plans to reduce unemployment, underemployment and informal work, and strengthen the policies for the generation of employment and youth employment (Paraguay);**

144.157 **Further strengthen the promotion of environmental rights through their incorporation into social and economic development plans in the entire Kingdom (United Arab Emirates);**

144.158 **Continue to implement policies and develop infrastructure that increase access to employment, particularly for youths (Singapore);**

144.159 **Adopt a draft law regulating the labour conditions of domestic workers (Turkey);**

144.160 **Continue to provide basic medical cover for its people, including the elderly (Brunei Darussalam);**

144.161 **Improve the social protection system with a view to extending social and medical coverage to everyone (Cuba);**

144.162 **As a follow-up to the recommendations from the second cycle contained in A/HRC/21/3, paras. 129.98, 129.102, 129.111, 129.116, 129.117 and 130.9, increase investments in public education with a view to increasing the salaries of teachers and introducing professional and technical training programmes (Haiti);**

144.163 **Increase access to health services in rural areas, in particular to reduce maternal mortality and morbidity (Republic of Korea);**

144.164 **Further promote prenatal care and consultation to reduce the need for emergency transportation at the time of labour and thereby reduce the risk of death among mothers and children (Thailand);**

144.165 **Take further targeted measures to promote inclusive education for all (Armenia);**

144.166 **Implement the strategic vision for education reform for 2015-2030 (Burundi);**

144.167 **Continue efforts to promote inclusive education by strengthening access to education for persons with disabilities (Ecuador);**

144.168 **Continue to strengthen further the right to education (Mauritius);**

144.169 **Put in place a strategy or a plan of action to fight illiteracy (Niger);**

144.170 **Consider eliminating differences in schooling between cities and rural areas, between girls and boys and among minorities (Peru);**

144.171 **Implement measures to ensure inclusive education for all at the primary, secondary and university levels (Portugal);**

144.172 **Take further steps in the field of promotion of economic, social and cultural rights, especially in the sector of education, with a special focus on the enrolment of girls and boys in rural areas (Romania);**

144.173 **Support the right to education by implementing the strategic vision to reform the education system for the period 2015-2030 (Saudi Arabia);**

144.174 **Consolidate and support the promotion of education for economically vulnerable children (South Sudan);**

144.175 **Continue efforts to ensure that all children enrol in elementary school and to consider the necessary measures to reach out to children deprived of an education (State of Palestine);**

144.176 **Continue efforts to promote the right to education by combating the phenomenon of children dropping out of school (Sudan);**

144.177 **Continue efforts to reform the public education system and improve the quality of public education to achieve equal opportunities between social classes (Tunisia);**

144.178 **Increase efforts to ensure the school enrolment of all children at the primary and secondary levels (Turkey);**

144.179 **Review and where necessary adapt school and early childhood education curricula, teaching and school practices to foster the elimination of gender-based discrimination and stereotyping, as well as to promote the empowerment of girls from an early age (Botswana);**

144.180 **Promote programmes that encourage the education of children, especially girls in villages, and benefit vulnerable groups (United Arab Emirates);**

144.181 **Continue efforts to promote cultural rights through programmes to protect and revitalize the diversity of cultural heritage constituting the Moroccan identity, including the Hassani heritage in the southern provinces (United Arab Emirates);**

144.182 **Continue to promote equality between men and women in public policies (Egypt);**

144.183 **Continue to promote gender equality and women's involvement in politics and public service (Lao People's Democratic Republic);**

144.184 **Continue the commendable efforts to promote and protect the rights of women and children (Mauritania);**

144.185 **Review all laws and practices that discriminate on the basis of gender and bring them into line with international law and standards and take steps to further improve the protection of women who are subjected to violence, including by amending the Criminal Code to ensure the criminalization of marital rape (Sweden);**

144.186 **Revise the Family Code to prohibit polygamy and the marriage of minors, as well as to guarantee equality between men and women in inheritance matters and in the right to guardianship (Norway);**

144.187 **As a follow-up to the recommendations from the second cycle contained in A/HRC/21/3, paras. 129.19, 129.22, 129.27, 129.39, 129.40, 129.43, 129.78, 129.88, 129.93 and 131.7, intensify efforts towards improving the economic, social and cultural rights of the female population, with their full participation (Haiti);**

144.188 **Adopt comprehensive and integral legislation to eliminate discrimination and all forms of violence against women and to promote their advancement in all areas, including the economic area (Honduras);**

144.189 **Strengthen the existing legal framework to protect women against all forms of violence and eliminate all discriminatory gender-based legal norms (Chile);**

144.190 **Take all necessary measures to strengthen the fight against domestic violence and sexual violence against women (France);**

144.191 **Take appropriate measures, taking into consideration its international obligations, to prevent the marriage of minors (Myanmar);**

144.192 **Continue to put into place practical measures at the local and national levels to ensure gender equality and combat discrimination against women (Singapore);**

144.193 **Continue efforts to combat violence against women (Tunisia);**

144.194 **Amend domestic legislation to remove all forms of gender-based discrimination and protect the rights of women and children (Australia);**

144.195 **Expedite the adoption of draft law 103.13 on violence against women, while taking into account the importance of widening the protection for women victims of violence, and criminalize marital rape (Belgium);**

144.196 **Continue its efforts to improve legislation concerning violence against women, in line with international standards, addressing the dimensions of prevention, protection and assistance, and repealing discriminatory provisions related to custody, marriage, inheritance and transfer of nationality (Brazil);**

144.197 **Criminalize marital rape and threats of violence as part of its draft law 103.13 on combating violence against women and implement State-sponsored programmes to support victims (Canada);**

144.198 **Implement adequate measures to ensure the comprehensive and effective protection of women against domestic violence and accelerate the drafting process of a bill that is consistent with international standards in this area (Germany);**

144.199 **Strengthen the legal framework to prevent discrimination and violence against women, in particular domestic violence (Italy);**

144.200 **Accelerate the process of adoption of the draft law on the elimination of the violence against women (Jordan);**

144.201 **Continue aligning legislation, policies and programmes that anchor the rights of the child in order to stop children from working in harmful**

**conditions, stop early marriages and criminalize all forms of child exploitation (Kenya);**

144.202 **Adopt specific legislation on violence against women, including criminal and civil provisions necessary to address domestic violence and sexual harassment against women and girls (Mexico);**

144.203 **Implement the law on violence against women swiftly (Norway);**

144.204 **Adopt a general law on violence against women, in accordance with international standards, providing the means for its effective implementation (Paraguay);**

144.205 **Strengthen legislation to ensure gender equality, in particular to prevent violence against women and stop early and forced marriages (Republic of Korea);**

144.206 **Accelerate the enactment of the law on violence against women and the adoption of the international definition of gender-based violence (Slovenia);**

144.207 **Further progress in the fight against all forms of discrimination and violence against women, putting into operation the Authority for Gender Equality and Action against All Forms of Discrimination (Spain);**

144.208 **Adopt and implement a comprehensive and non-discriminatory law on violence against women and girls (Switzerland);**

144.209 **Put into place specific legislation to prevent, investigate and punish violence against women (Uganda);**

144.210 **Adjust the new abortion law protocol to give women the right to abort in cases of incest and rape based on the police report only (Slovenia);**

144.211 **Step up efforts to combat violence against women by strictly enforcing relevant laws and improve victim support mechanisms (Thailand);**

144.212 **Take additional measures on domestic violence (Greece);**

144.213 **Amend the law on inheritance in the Family Code in order to respect gender equality, as stipulated in article 19 of the Constitution of Morocco (Canada);**

144.214 **Adopt appropriate measures with a view to integrating women more in economic activities and guarantee them the right to equal treatment and equal pay for work of equal value (Serbia);**

144.215 **Make further reforms to the Family Code to remove all exceptions that allow marriage of children under the age of 18 years of age (Botswana);**

144.216 **Ensure that the minimum age of marriage at 18 years of age is respected, including by preventing judges from authorizing children to marry under article 20 of the Family Code (Canada);**

144.217 **Eliminate the harmful practice of early marriage and raise awareness among the public and parents for the effective protection of minor girls (Croatia);**

144.218 **Strengthen measures aimed at eradicating child marriages and expedite the enactment of legislation abolishing the forced marriage of children (Sierra Leone);**

144.219 **Take measures to counteract the trend of judicial authorizations of marriages involving minors, including through necessary amendments to the Family Code (Sweden);**

144.220 **Strengthen the promotion of political participation of women and youth (Ecuador);**

144.221 **Continue efforts to promote the political participation of women (Jordan);**

144.222 **Take more effective measures to better protect the rights of children, persons with disabilities, migrants and other vulnerable groups (China);**

144.223 **Continue efforts to ensure vulnerable children and adolescents in rural communities access quality education and health-care services (Lao People's Democratic Republic);**

144.224 **Continue to strengthen the relevant public policies on the promotion and protection of human rights, particularly the rights of children, migrants and asylum seekers and persons with disabilities (Romania);**

144.225 **Continue its efforts to combat child labour through the effective implementation of the domestic workers labour and employment conditions act (Maldives);**

144.226 **Prohibit and criminalize explicitly the recruitment and use in hostilities of children under 18 years (Ukraine);**

144.227 **Continue its efforts for the protection and promotion of the human rights of vulnerable groups, including persons with disabilities and children (Cyprus);**

144.228 **Further accelerate efforts aimed at promoting the rights of women and children, in particular those with disabilities (Georgia);**

144.229 **Continue taking comprehensive measures to better integrate persons with disabilities into society (Hungary);**

144.230 **Continue to reinforce the implementation of public policies regarding persons with disabilities (Libya);**

144.231 **Integrate sign language into public media and provide training for interpreters in that field (Madagascar);**

144.232 **Continue its appreciable efforts towards the development of national languages and promote and protect the Amazigh language and cultural heritages (Bangladesh);**

144.233 **Continue efforts to introduce the teaching of the Amazigh language and culture (Burundi);**

144.234 **Continue efforts towards the promotion and preservation of the Saharo-Hassani cultural heritage, as enshrined in the 2011 Constitution (Burundi);**

144.235 **Continue to adopt the legislative measures and protection policies necessary to ensure education for the Amazigh and Saharawi populations at all levels, as well as the full enjoyment of their rights to demonstrate and participate in the cultural life of the country, preserving their traditions and identity (Mexico);**

144.236 **Guarantee the full and equal access to socioeconomic resources, (including access to tertiary education and traditional language classes) for the Amazigh and Saharan/Saharawi people (Sierra Leone);**

144.237 **Continue the implementation of the policy of effective promotion and protection of the rights of migrants (Central African Republic);**

144.238 **Continue efforts to promote and protect the rights of migrants (Djibouti);**

144.239 **Thoroughly review the national legislation on migration and asylum (Honduras);**

144.240 **Speed up the review of the legal framework on migration and asylum in order to align it with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Uganda);**

144.241 **Consider sharing with other countries the Moroccan experience regarding the protection and promotion of the rights of migrants (Senegal);**

144.242 **Accede to and domesticate the conventions relating to the status of stateless persons and the reduction of statelessness in order to grant nationality to children who would otherwise remain stateless (Kenya);**

144.243 **Allow the Saharawi people to freely exercise their inalienable right to self-determination in accordance with General Assembly resolutions and in this context accept a schedule proposed by the Secretary-General on the organization of a referendum on self-determination in Western Sahara (Namibia);**

144.244 **Develop and implement independent and credible measures to ensure full respect for human rights in Western Sahara, including the freedom of expression and assembly (Iceland).**

145. **All conclusions and/or recommendations contained in the present report reflect the position of the submitting State(s) and/or the State under review. They should not be construed as endorsed by the Working Group as a whole.**

# Annex

*[Original: English/French]*

## Composition of the delegation

The delegation of Morocco was headed by the Minister for Human Rights, Mostafa Ramid, and composed of the following members:

- M. Driss Najim, Cabinet du Ministre;
- M. Hassane Boukili, Chargé d'affaires Mission du Maroc;
- M. Saïd Ahouga, Ministre Plénipotentiaire;
- Mme. Siham Mourabit, Ministère des Affaires Etrangères et de la Coopération Intérnationale;
- Mme. Nezha El Hadrami, Ministère de la Communication;
- Mme. Touria Elafti, Secrétariat d'Etat Chargé de l'Eau;
- Mme. Hanane Bidrane, Délégation Interministérielle aux Droits de l'Homme;
- M. Fouad Zyadi, Secrétariat d'Etat Chargé de Développement Durable;
- M. Mohammed El Azzouzi, Administration de la Défense Nationale;
- M. Azzouz Attaoui, Ministère de la Famille de Solidarité, de l'Egalité, et du Développement Social;
- M. Lahoucine Amouzay, Institut Royal de la Culture Amazighe;
- M. Said Machak, Ministère Chargé des Marocains Résidants à l'Etranger et des Affaires de la Migration;
- Mme. Karima Brahimi, Ministère de l'Intérieur /DRLP;
- Mme. Mouna Lemzouri, Ministère de la Justice;
- M. Brahim Bastaoui, Ministère de l'Intérieur;
- M. Hssain Oujour, Education Nationale;
- M. Abderrazak Rouane, Délégation Interministérielle aux Droits de l'Homme;
- M. Abdelaziz Karraky, Délégation Interministérielle aux Droits de l'Homme;
- M. Mohamed Adi, Délégation Interministérielle aux Droits de l'Homme;
- M. Mohammed Ait Azizi, Ministère de la Famille de Solidarité, de l'Egalité, et du Développement Social;
- M. Toufik El Atifi, Ministère de Travail;
- Mme. Mouna Bengrine, Ministère de l'Economie et des Finances;
- M. Moulay Ahmed Mghizlat, CORCAS;
- M. Abdeslam Nadah, HCP.